By converting scientific data into sound, astronomer Dr. Wanda Diaz is helping to explore the Universe in new and innovative ways. Through a process called “sonification,” she turns data from cosmic objects, including stars, into audible sound through various physical properties including pitch and duration.

Diaz received her Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Glasgow in Scotland after an undergraduate degree in astronomy from the University of Puerto Rico. She developed her sonification research, which identifies patterns or regularities in data, while working on her doctorate. “If we only see with our eyes, our perception is very narrow,” said Diaz, who lost her sight as a young adult.